DC

2

KNIGHT TERRORS: PUNCHLINE™

(MEINKO 2023)

DAWN OF DC

LORE - MEYER - GUIMARÃES

13+ TEEN

WHO IS BRUCE WAYNE?

BATMAN

VOL. 2:
THE BAT-MAN OF GOTHAM

Written by
CHIP ZDARSKY

Art by
MIKE HAWTHORNE

Cover by
JORGE JIMENEZ

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***"It's a huge and epic idea at work here, and the creative team pulls it off"* —AIPT**

AUGUST

A MYSTERIOUS AND DEADLY NEW VILLAIN NAMED INSOMNIA HAS STRUCK! THE ENTIRE WORLD HAS BEEN FORCED INTO ETERNAL SLUMBER, INCLUDING ALL THE HEROES AND VILLAINS AS INSOMNIA SEARCHES THEIR DREAMS FOR THE NIGHTMARE STONE. CAN THEY SURVIVE BEING TRAPPED WITHIN THEIR DARKEST FEARS?

...a brave error was made.

At some point...

I'm not *error* trapped.

I haven't *undefined* lost.

I'm not *faulty syntax*

Scanning for errors and then restarting…

-PLEASE SELECT AN OPTION.

-BOOT IN SAFE MODE.

-BOOT IN SAFE MODE WITH NETWORKING.

-START PUNCHLINE NORMALLY...

I fall **hard** into the void.

There is more than silence--there is **nothing.** Until…

…the sound that **monster**--that **Batgirl**--made, the screeching static, roars toward me. I'm not dumb enough to wait to see why…but I…

ANON4958

Two-faced? More like four- or five-faced, humorless Gotham! Super fake

WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU AREN'T BEATING ME WITH ***FALL DAMAGE.***

NOW WHERE THE HELL AM I--

ANON4958

...I KNOW THIS ***WEBSITE.***

A BUNCH OF ***LOSERS*** WHO DON'T GET THAT HATING ON ME IS ***EXACTLY*** THE SAME AS FAWNING.

ANON4958

GRAY-FACED ANONS?

YOU ARE ***SO*** UNSERIOUS.

LIAR!
FAKE!
GREW IT MYSELF--NOT THAT IT MATTERS.
PICK A NEW--UGH-- RUMOR.
THEY SWARM, SUFFOCATING ME.
OX
I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I WAS **EVER** OVERWHELMED LIKE THIS..
EVER.
I NEED A WAY OUT, AND I CAN SEE IT THROUGH THEIR GROTESQUE GRAY GRASPING.
COME ON, COME ON...
BLOCK BUTTON DOESN'T BUDGE. IT'S A CONCRETE BRICK WEIGHING A TON.
FAKE!
LIAR!
THE OTHER BUTTON WORKS **FINE**...
...UNTIL IT DOESN'T.
WITH EVERY STRIKE OF THE BUTTON THEY MULTIPLY, GOOPY AND GHOULISH AND **GROSS** AND **GRAY.**
I HIT **HARDER.** FASTER. I THINK I SCREAMED.
EVENTUALLY, THEY JUST CAN'T KEEP UP.
POOF!!!

POOF!!!

POOF

POOF

F-F-FAKE...

I DID IT.

OX

POOF!!!!

I BEAT THE INTERNET.

YOU'RE ***REALLY*** GOING TO KEEP COMING?

HA!

DON'T ANY OF YOU FOOLS ***GET IT?*** PLACES LIKE THIS? I ***OWN*** THEM.

POOF!!!

EXACTLY.

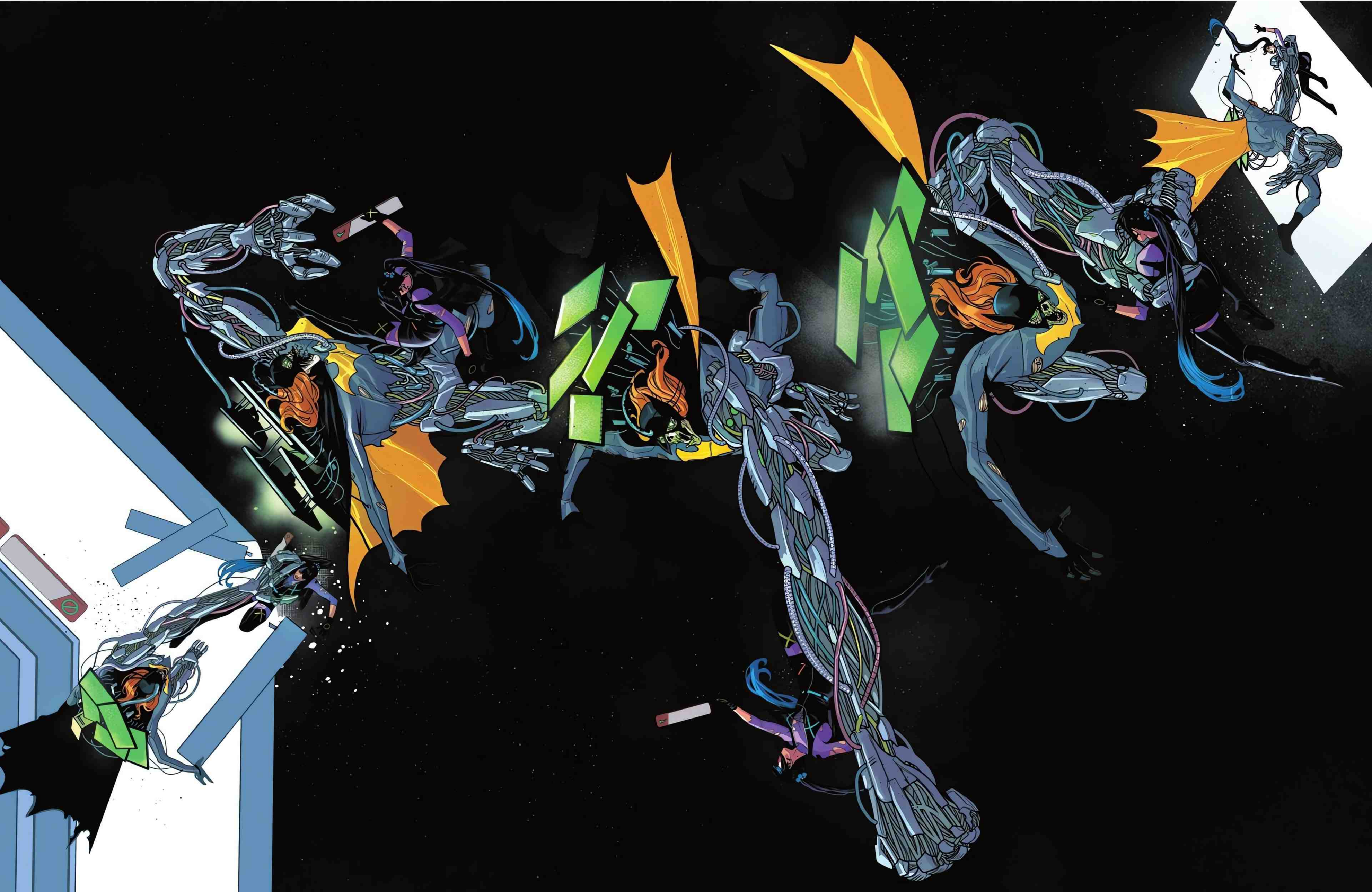
WHOEVER'S DOING THIS? YOU PICKED THE WRONG BATTLEGROUND.

=STATIC= GRRRR =STATIC=

=STATIC= GRRRR =STATIC=

=STATIC= GRRRR =STATIC=

OH #@--



I WILL MYSELF TO FALL INTO THE NOTHINGNESS AGAIN...

Player

Auto play

1:44:51 / 2:00:23

523 916 Views •

377 k

17 k

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Save

...ANYTHING BUT THE COMMENT SECTION.

7.9 million subscribers

SUBSCRIBE

THE BATGIRL CREATURE IS BIGGER AND THE STATIC HISSES LOUDER, AND SHE **WON'T LET GO...**

OX

NOT UNTIL I MAKE HER.

1:44:51 / 2:00:23

7.9 million subscribers

I'M PRETTY SURE THERE'S NOWHERE TO LAND IN THE INFINITE SCROLL.

=GASP GASP=

I *KNOW* YOU DON'T THINK VIDEO'S A HARDER FORMAT FOR ME.

HAVE YOU *SEEN* ME?

OH.

A TWO-HOUR *RISE AND FALL* VIDEO? I'D RATHER FIGHT THE ANONS AGAIN, THANKS.

YOU JUST MISSED THE BEST PART, *PUNCHLINE.*

WHAT THE--?!

NO NO NO--!

YOUR PROBLEM, PUNCHLINE...

...IS YOU THINK YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE POWER...

...OF A *GOOD EDIT.*

I'VE SEEN BETTER COSPLAYERS. I'M NOT ***BOTHERED.***

YOU KEEP SAYING THAT. YOU'RE NOT ***BOTHERED.***

YOU'RE NOT ***TRIGGERED.***

WHY WOULD I BE? THIS IS OBVIOUSLY SOME WEIRD GAS, OR DRUG, OR ILLUSION--

--IF THAT'S TRUE, WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?

I'VE JUST GOT TO ***OUTLAST*** IT. LET IT WEAR OFF AND THEN--

OR MAYBE YOU'RE HERE WITH ME BECAUSE ***YOU CAN'T TURN THE VIDEO OFF.***

YOU MAKE ME SOUND LIKE ONE OF THOSE TERMINALLY ONLINE LOSERS WHO SPEND ALL DAY TALKING ABOUT ME.

OH RIGHT. YOU'RE IN CONTROL. NOTHING THAT HAPPENS HERE OR IRL MATTERS. IT'S ALL MEANINGLESS.

YOU'RE JUST ONE BIG OLD TROLL.

BUT WE BOTH KNOW THAT'S A LIE.

GET OFF YOUR HIGH HORSE. WHO ARE YOU? SOME ARKHAM SHRINK? ONE OF THE BATS--?!

SHHHH.

SIT WITH THE TRUTH A MINUTE.

I CAN'T SPEAK.

I CAN'T EVEN HEAR THE GASPING, PANICKED BREATHING SOUNDS I KNOW I SHOULD BE MAKING.

I AM LEFT WITH NOTHING BUT THE MEMORY OF WATCHING A GLOWING SCREEN IN A DARK ROOM.

JUDGMENTS. OPINIONS. **VOICES.**

NONE OF THEM MINE. ALL OF THEM **TAKING ROOT** IN MY MIND.

I WAS RIGHT BEFORE...THERE'S NO BOTTOM TO THE INFINITE-SCROLLING COMMENTS.

DO YOU KNOW HOW **LOUD** YOU HAVE TO BE TO DESTROY EVERY-ONE ELSE'S **VOICE?**

OX

SO **LOUD** YOU DON'T HEAR OR SEE ANYTHING AROUND YOU.

YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO SCREAM.

OR **LAUGH.**

BUT IN THIS NIGHTMARE... AND IT'S DEFINITELY A **NIGHTMARE...**

...I CAN'T DO EITHER.

SO MANY SOUNDS I FANTASIZED I'D HEAR AS I DIE...

Ox

HIS LAUGHTER MAYBE. OR MINE.

BUT IT'S DEVOID OF NOISE. A DREAM WHERE YOU KNOW SOMEONE SPOKE BUT CAN'T RECALL HOW.

A DREAM.

BUT DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES ARE BAD JOKES YOUR BRAIN COMES UP WITH TO FILL THE SILENCE.

I'VE ALWAYS TOLD MYSELF NOTHING HAPPENS IN YOUR DREAMS YOU CAN'T SHAKE OFF IN THE MORNING.

THERE'S NO WAY THIS MATTERS.

I GET THE **PRANK** NOW.

WHOEVER YOU ARE, YOU WANTED TO CONVINCE ME THAT I CARED, HUH?

THAT I WAS ONE OF THOSE FORUM LOSERS OBSESSING OVER EVERY WORD, EVERY PICTURE, EVERY DECISION.

TRIED TO KILL ME WITH **CARING** ABOUT THEIR OPINIONS.

BUT IT'S THE **NONSENSE OF NIGHTMARES.** MEANINGLESS.

JUDGING THEM ISN'T THE SAME AS **CARING** WHAT THEY THINK.

AND IF THIS WAS **REALLY** YOUR WORLD...

...YOU'D UNDERSTAND.

OX

AAAAH!

THE ONLY SOUND AFTER MY SCREAM IS THE SIZZLING HISS OF THE MONSTER'S MONITORS.

BUT IT'S A NORMAL QUIET. NOT A VOID.

377k

17k

Share

1+

377

17

I FEEL... REFRESHED.

=>GASP!<=

THE GANG'S ALL HERE WHEN I WAKE UP.

OX

NOTHING IS MUTED. NOTHING IS A VOID.

NOTHING LOOMS LARGE.

NOTHING DROWNS ME OUT.

...LOOKS LIKE NAP TIME IS OVER...

IT *HAS* TO BE.

KNIGHT TERRORS: PUNCHLINE

CHAPTER TWO

DANNY LORE WRITER
LUCAS MEYER ARTIST
ALEX GUIMARÃES COLORIST
STEVE WANDS LETTERER
GLEB MELNIKOV COVER & 1:50 VARIANT COVER ARTIST
DUSTIN NGUYEN AND EJIKURE VARIANT COVER ARTISTS
LUCAS MEYER & ALEX GUIMARÃES 1:25 VARIANT COVER ARTISTS
BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR
PUNCHLINE CREATED BY JAMES TYNION IV AND JORGE JIMENEZ

TO BE CONCLUDED IN KNIGHT TERRORS: NIGHT'S END

IT'S NOT JUST A DREAM!

KNIGHT TERRORS: BATMAN

THE DARK KNIGHT GETS DARKER!

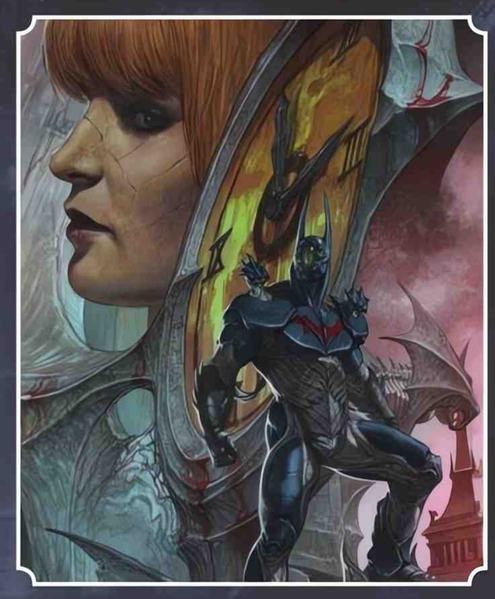
Written by
JOSHUA WILLIAMSON
Art and cover by
GUILLEM MARCH

DC
DAWN OF DC
AUGUST

KNIGHT TERRORS: DETECTIVE COMICS

WAKE UP, JIM GORDON!

Written by
DAN WATTERS
Art and cover by
RICCARDO FEDERICI



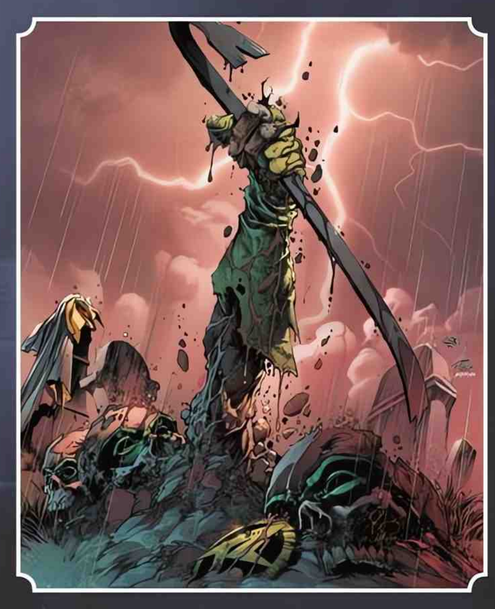
KNIGHT TERRORS: NIGHTWING

NIGHTWING'S NIGHTMARE CONTINUES!

Written by
BECKY CLOONAN
MICHAEL W. CONRAD
Art and cover by
DANIELE DI NICUOLO

KNIGHT TERRORS: ROBIN

LOST IN THEIR OWN PERSONAL HELLS!



Written by
KENNY PORTER
Art by
MIGUEL MENDONÇA
Cover by
IVAN REIS

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DC NATION INTERVIEW

ANGEL MANUEL SOTO
DIRECTOR OF
Blue Beetle

Can you share your journey to becoming director of *Blue Beetle*?

My journey started during the pandemic. I got a call from DC mentioning their interest in producing *Blue Beetle*, and I found myself very impressed with the origin story of this character. I thought it was interesting to do something focused on a kid that looks like me, that speaks like me, that comes from a family very close to mine.

It felt very refreshing to me, so I accepted the challenge, and here we are now.

What's your take on Jaime Reyes as a main character?

Jaime is more than just a relatable character. He's a kid that believed in an idea of progress and is playing by the rules and staying in his lane—and realizes that a lot of things are not like people said they would be.

Life often brings surprises, and to people like him, it's not as easy as go to college, come back, and make a career. He faces that reality of having to deal with existential issues, both within his family and within himself, and navigating the life of a college graduate. We see him encounter this mysterious scarab that chooses him—adding a layer of more problems to his life, not knowing that maybe this is his destiny. And now we go on the journey with him, and now he's going to become the hero we were all waiting for.

Let's go back to the scarab—can you tell us a little more?

The scarab is technology made by a colonizing alien race that was sent throughout the cosmos to land in different places and attach to its host, then dominate that host, before exploiting and obliterating the planet.

But this scarab is not like the others. The host has the capacity to communicate with the scarab and have a symbiotic connection. And this is where it gets exciting between them, and creates an interesting dynamic as a weapon of mass destruction learns how to be a nice person.

Blue Beetle

IN THEATERS AUGUST 18!

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